



Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup

A Report to the Monterey Bay Area Community

Winter 2005

Update on Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) and Clearance Activities

Eucalyptus Road to Reopen to Cyclists and Pedestrians

The removal of unexploded ordnance on weapons Ranges 43 through 48 on the former Fort Ord south of the intersection of Eucalyptus Road and Parker Flats Cutoff was completed in November 2005. The removal work that began with a vegetation burn in October 2003 required the closure of a section of Eucalyptus Road connecting General Jim Moore Blvd. with Barloy Canyon Road, which is popular with walkers and bicyclists. Technicians, using geophysical detection equipment have been working for over two years to remove unexploded ordnance from below the surface of the adjacent ranges. Beginning December 1,

the route will reopen to pedestrians and bicyclists. Automobile traffic will continue to be restricted to authorized vehicles only. Federal police will continue to patrol the roadway.

With considerable cooperation by members of the local community and public safety officials, the Army is on track to complete the work in Ranges 43 through 48 without a single injury resulting from ordnance. Ordnance technicians have been able to remove more than 9,500 explosive items and clean up nearly 2 million pounds of recyclable debris from the ranges. The plants and animals that make their

home on those ranges show signs of making a full recovery. (See related article on page 2.)

Quality assurance has been conducted as the final steps of the work. This is done by checking the area to confirm that the removal crews completed all their requirements. When the quality assurance process is complete, documentation of the clearance will be published and made available to the public through the Army's system of information repositories and on the Document Review section of the project website, www.fortordcleanup.com.

Digging on Fort Ord?

Corps of Engineers Offers Free Safety Training

As a result of the Army's use of military munitions on the former Fort Ord, munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) may be encountered by those

working on and reusing the property, therefore, this training is recommended for anyone excavating on Fort Ord and required for all workers entering

restricted munitions response sites.

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) offers free training to contractors, residents, property owners and workers involved in intrusive (digging) activities on the former Fort Ord. The training will orient attendees on MEC avoidance, the visual characteristics of MEC and the precautions

necessary if it is encountered. Attendees will also be provided the procedures for contacting authorities if MEC is encountered.

To schedule this training, call Lyle Shurtleff at 242-7919 or send an email to Lyle.Shurtleff@monterey.army.mil.



This is a photo of a one type of a munitions and explosive of concern. The size, shape and color of munitions and explosives of concern will vary.

Four Reasons to Take Advantage of the Training

- It is free.
- The training is located on Fort Ord.
- It takes about 20 minutes.
- Special arrangements are available for groups of 15 or more. We will go to your job site or tail-gate safety briefing.

More on the Work at Ranges 43–48

Interesting Results in the Plant Community After the Fire

In 2000, the Army surveyed a 483-acre habitat reserve area at Ranges 43 through 48 to characterize the habitat that existed prior to the cleanup. The survey identified approximately 15 acres occupied by sand gilia, a federally endangered plant, pictured right.

In October 2003, the Army conducted a prescribed burn at Ranges 43 through 48. Central Maritime Chaparral (or Chaparral) habitat requires periodic burning for its continued existence. After the 2003 burn, the Chaparral was temporarily cleared. Several protected plants, including the endangered sand gilia plant, returned because the shade from the bushy Chaparral was removed. The temporary removal of the Chaparral also allowed safe access for the workers finding and clearing munitions. The picture below (taken 4 months after the burn) shows the return of the plants that live under the shade of the Chaparral.

There are many reasons why sand gilia populations have increased at Ranges 43 through 48. The main reasons include habitat modification and increased rainfall. Measures to reduce and avoid impacts during munitions response actions also benefited the protected plants. Habitat modification occurred by burning the



Chaparral canopy that resulted in open areas that were subsequently disturbed during the search for unexploded ordnance. Rainfall in 2004 was about twice the rainfall in the previous year. Using mitigation measures like avoiding digging during the flowering period to the extent possible, topsoil replacement and education of the field crews likely reduced impacts to the sand gilia populations.

The Army has conducted follow-up

habitat monitoring at Ranges 43 through 48 to determine whether the habitat is returning to baseline conditions. Results of habitat monitoring show a significant increase in the number of endangered sand gilia. The number of sand gilia increased from 15 acres in 2000 to 193 acres in 2004 and to 287 acres in 2005.

These population increases are consistent with the Army's assumptions that burning and munitions response actions are protective of species associated with Central Maritime Chaparral. Burning and remedial actions resulted in temporary habitat modifications that improved habitat conditions for sand gilia. Habitat monitoring at Ranges 43 through 48 will continue through 2008 to ensure that species diversity within the habitat reserve portion of the site have fully recovered following the munitions response actions. Results of the annual habitat surveys at Ranges 43 through 48 will be available in early 2006.

Want to know more about the habitat and plants at the former Fort Ord? Go to http://www.fortordcleanup.com/ar_pdfs/AR-BW-1787/ and browse through the Fort Ord Habitat Management Plan.



What Happens Next?

Important Cleanup Decisions Scheduled for Spring 2006

Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Studies (also called an RI/FS) have been completed for a munitions cleanup site called Parker Flats and a groundwater contamination site called Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride. Once the nature and extent of contamination of each site is completed and outlined in the RI/FS, the next step is to send a proposed plan to the community that outlines several ways to cleanup up the site and suggests a preferred cleanup. In spring 2006, there will be notices in the Monterey Herald and the Salinas Californian newspapers and on the Fort Ord Cleanup web site for Proposed Plan public comment meeting for each of these sites. Notices will also be sent to people on the Fort Ord cleanup mailing list and email list server. To be added to either of these lists, call 393-1284 or email Melissa.Broadston@monterey.army.mil.

To learn more about Parker Flats, you can download the RI/FS at

www.FortOrdCleanup.com. Type this link into your browser address bar: http://www.fortordcleanup.com/adminrec/ar_pdfs/AR-OE-0523/

To learn more about Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride, you can download the RI/FS at www.FortOrdCleanup.com. Type this link in your browser address bar: http://www.fortordcleanup.com/adminrec/ar_pdfs/AR-OUCTP-0011.1/

Community Involvement Workshop

**January 11, 2006 (Wednesday)
6:30 – 9:30 pm, Stilwell Community Center at the corner of Gigling Road and General Jim Moore Boulevard on Ord Military Community.**

An update on the Fort Ord groundwater cleanup is scheduled for the next Community Involvement Workshop. There will also be updates on the

cleanup budget and the prescribed burn scheduled for Fall 2006. You can download a map and advance meeting information at www.FortOrdCleanup.com in the Community Involvement section.

Free Tours of Fort Ord

On Saturday, February 25, 2006, from 10:00 am to 1:30 p.m., there will be free, 90-minute bus tours of cleanup sites at the Former Fort Ord. The tours will venture through areas of Fort Ord that are currently off limits. Each tour will be accompanied by an Ordnance and Explosive Safety Escort. Please wear comfortable walking shoes.

2006 Calendar

The "What Happens Next" calendar of events has been updated for next year. Contact Melissa Broadston at (831) 393-1284 or check the web site www.fortordcleanup.com for up-to-date information on meeting times and locations. Call Melissa to schedule a tour or a small community group presentation.

Thank You Woody

His Commitment to Water Conservation Aided the Cleanup Project

The public comments usually started like this: "My name is Bill Woodworth and I'd like to bring up the issue of collecting the storm water. ..." Bill "Woody" Woodworth worked with the BRAC cleanup team, attended dozens of Fort Ord public meetings, many open houses, and commented on cleanup documents. In a less traditional form of project review, he watched over 8 hours of video tape taken of the interior sections of the Fort Ord storm water pipes to review the integrity—he wanted to be absolutely sure those lines were intact. When returning those tapes he made just two remarks: the pipes were intact and suggested adding a soundtrack if anyone else reviewed them. Woody's commitment to water conservation had a positive impact on the Fort Ord cleanup project. (While we were required to collect storm water at a soil treatment area, we stored this reclaimed water on-site for use in keeping the soil moist



Woody (left) and Grant Himebaugh of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board at a Fort Ord cleanup open house.

during dry seasons of the year-long treatment time.)

Woody's company and commentary will truly be missed. A Monterey Peninsula Water Management District board member from 1978 through 1983, a retired Air Force meteorologist and a major proponent of micro-solutions to water problems, Woodworth died October 10 at the age of 87.

Create a Large-sized Fort Ord Map

If you stopped at the Fort Ord information booth at the Monterey County Fair this year, you probably noticed a very large map of the former Fort Ord on display. This map is available for downloading. You may go to the news section of the cleanup web site (www.FortOrdCleanup.com — scroll down to the news item "Free Fort Ord Map for Download") to download and use this file to create your own Fort Ord aerial map. A thumbnail size of the map is shown above right. The map on display at the fair was made from taping two 3-foot by 6-foot sections together. You can use this file to make smaller sized maps at your local copy and duplication establishments. Contact Melissa Broadston at (831) 393-1284 if you have questions.



How You Can Contact Members of the Fort Ord Cleanup Team

The Army is responsible for conducting cleanup of the former Fort Ord, but it must do so in a manner that complies with federal and state laws and under the supervision of federal and state regulatory agencies. At Fort Ord, the cleanup is supervised by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Under an agreement between the agencies, each team assigns a representative to the Base Cleanup Team (called the BCT). This team makes day-to-day management decisions about the cleanup program. Contacts for each of the participating agencies in the Fort Ord Cleanup program are listed below:

California Department of Toxic Substances Control-
Roman Racca (916) 255-6407 rracca@dtsc.ca.gov

California Department of Toxic Substances Control-
Kris Escarda (916) 255-6683 kescarda@dtsc.ca.gov

California Regional Water Quality Control Board-
Grant Himebaugh (805) 542-4636
ghimebaugh@waterboards.ca.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency-
Claire Trombadore (415) 972-3013
Trombadore.claire@epamail.epa.gov for questions
about military munitions

United States Environmental Protection Agency-
Martin Hausladen (415) 972-3007
Hausladen.martin@epamail.epa.gov for questions
about cleanup not related to military munitions

**United States Army Fort Ord Base Realignment and
Closure Office-** *Gail Youngblood* (831) 242-7924
Gail.Youngblood@monterey.army.mil

**United States Army Fort Ord Base Realignment and
Closure Office-** *Melissa Broadston* (831) 393-1284
Melissa.Broadston@monterey.army.mil

Please note, this publication has been sent bulk mail. We are unable remove individual addresses. If you are interested in getting monthly cleanup information, it is available through the Fort Ord community relations office. Please call 393-1284 to add your address or send an email to:
Melissa.Broadston@monterey.army.mil
and receive Fort Ord monthly updates. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

Fort Ord Cleanup Newsletter

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